

**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

Office of the Director



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January 4, 1982

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to report that your directive of last summer initiating Project Truth has resulted in an unprecedented demonstration of teamwork among the foreign affairs agencies of the United States Government.

As you requested, we have organized ourselves into inter-Agency working groups on specific issues - all reporting to the Project Truth Coordinating Committee which I chair.

You will see from this brief report on the various projects completed and underway that Project Truth has drawn on the special strengths of the participating agencies to forge a truly powerful weapon.

We shared our concern with you last summer that the Soviet Union has been effectively exploiting existing unrest the world over and in particular beclouding their own aggressive behavior with a campaign of disinformation intended to discredit us with our NATO allies. Therefore a number of our Project Truth initiatives are designed to alert our allies to the reality of the Soviet threat, by documenting both their capabilities and their actions.

SOVIET MILITARY POWER

"Soviet Military Power," the Pentagon's publication assessing the Soviet threat, was the product of an inter-Agency working group responding to the requests of our NATO allies for declassified material to document the threat. (Tab B)

The President
The White House

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We arranged direct satellite broadcast to Europe of Secretary Weinberger's September 29, 1981, release day press conference; assembled a group of top European defense writers in Brussels to view the Weinberger presentation and to receive additional live briefings; distributed summaries of "Soviet Military Power" in foreign language versions worldwide on release day as well as some 6,000 copies of the document itself.

Secretary Weinberger, as part of the ongoing follow-up activities, participated in a live satellite broadcast "video dialogue" on the Soviet threat, reaching some 8,000,000 German viewers.

We have also produced two films to support theme of the Soviet threat and the US response: "Soviet Military Power," and "RDF" (Rapid Deployment Force), now in distribution to our Embassies/posts around the world. (Tab C)

With respect to the Soviet propaganda and disinformation campaign we have undertaken the following projects:

ACTIVE MEASURES

We have distributed worldwide a report on worldwide Soviet disinformation activities, [redacted] prepared for public release by the Department of State. (Tab D) An inter-Agency briefing team toured major European capitals to provide officials with additional facts.

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We have also secured international projection rights for a Canadian film, "The KGB in North America," and are sending prints to our posts.

SOVIET PROPAGANDA ALERT

Two new ICA products provide our officers overseas with information on Soviet propaganda activities: the "Soviet

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Propaganda Alert," a monthly analysis of major trends and themes; and a fast response service to counter Soviet misstatements to give our posts the facts to deal with specific instances of Soviet disinformation targetted locally. (Tab E)

An additional service being instituted by an inter-Agency group will respond to field reports of Soviet forgeries aimed at damaging US interests. (Tab E)

In addition to providing documentation of Soviet military power and Soviet disinformation activities, Project Truth also unmaskes the brutal realities of Soviet behavior in the Third World:

AFGHANISTAN

As the second anniversary of the Soviet invasion draws close, our printing plant in Manila is preparing 25,000 copies in English, Spanish, French and Arabic of an illustrated pamphlet on the situation in Afghanistan. This inter-agency product will be distributed worldwide in January 1982. (Tab F)

We are also acquiring footage from German, British and Italian television to produce a documentary on the Afghan partisans.

One of our senior officers with experience in Afghanistan was part of the inter-Agency team which recently briefed European officials and journalists on the struggle for freedom in Afghanistan.

CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

An inter-Agency group is working on the continuing public release of classified evidence which proves the Soviets and their allies have been using chemical and biological weapons on Third World victims.

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We have provided facilitative assistance to ABC for their documentary on "yellow rain" and have sponsored the European lecture tour of the world's leading expert on "yellow rain," Sterling Seagrave.

An inter-Agency briefing team on the Soviet use chemical-biological warfare recently completed a European tour.

CUBA, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN

An inter-Agency group is working on the public release of classified documentation of the subversive activities of Soviet surrogates - principally Cuba - in the Western Hemisphere.

HUMAN RIGHTS

While most of these Project Truth topics perforce depict Soviet violations of human rights, a telling evaluation of the Soviet concept of human rights is being prepared by one of the inter-Agency groups. Entitled "Crime and Punishment in the Soviet Union," this study of the Soviet penal system will be released by our delegation to the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Madrid.

While Project Truth aims to emphasize, especially to our European allies, that the Soviet challenge is real and must be met with Western resolve, Project Truth is equally responsible for projecting a clear statement of what we stand for. Thus we supported your peace initiative by assuring maximum worldwide coverage by TV satellite, and, in fact, the impetus for the timing and content of your historic November 18 "zero option" speech came from one of the Project Truth working groups. We have maintained the momentum of your initiative by arranging a live satellite broadcast of Secretary Haig's statement on the November 30 opening of the INF negotiations. (Tab G)

ARMS REDUCTION TALKS

We have included ACDA in Project Truth Executive Committee meetings to share ideas on public diplomacy strategies for

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the INF negotiations and ICA has detailed an experienced German speaking Public Affairs Officer to the delegation for the duration of the talks to balance anticipated Soviet efforts to play to the German press.

DATELINE AMERICA

We are inaugurating a new feature service, Dateline America, which will provide our posts with packets of articles for foreign press placement on the general theme of "what's good about America." Once again, inter-Agency teamwork is the key to achieving the kind of impact we seek. Public affairs officers from 16 agencies have agreed to supply Dateline America, as relevant, with material on the United States from their special perspective. (Tab H)

ICA MEDIA RESOURCES

We are moving forward on all media fronts with support materials for our posts. Our Foreign Press Centers have been arranging briefings and tours for foreign correspondents and visiting journalists, while a steady stream of public affairs guidance cables, research reports, magazine articles, visual materials, TV programs, speakers and books has been reaching our people in the field for public affairs programs and Project Truth themes.

Two of our most effective tools are, of course, VOA and the Wireless File. VOA broadcasts cover speeches and statements of top US Government officials to an audience of countless millions worldwide. The same coverage, in print, of official speeches, statements and analyses on Project Truth items goes daily to 201 posts in 125 countries where it is distributed to top Embassy contacts in government, the media, and the private sector.

REACTION FROM THE FIELD

We have heard from our posts the world over, that the Soviet response to Project Truth has been a stepping up of the frequency and level of their anti-American propaganda - including vicious personal attacks on top members of your

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Administration. This type of reaction from the Kremlin is usually an accurate indicator of the effectiveness of our efforts. As Ambassador Hartman reports from Moscow, "you must be doing something right."

Our two new products described above, "Soviet Propaganda Alert" and the "Countering Soviet Misstatements" cable service, have proven to be a valued resource specially designed to serve our people in the field who are being subjected to this heightened Soviet assault. Typically our posts use this material for staff orientation as well as background with key foreign contacts. The cable responses to specific instances of Soviet misstatements are being used for official protests to foreign governments as well as for press statements to set the record straight. (Tab E)

You will be pleased to learn of a new awareness in the field of Soviet disinformation activities and the establishment in Washington of a systematic coordinated inter-Agency response mechanism under Project Truth.

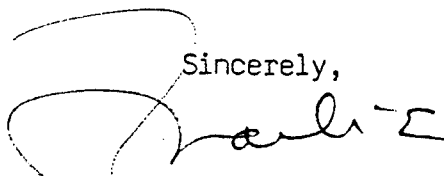
PRIVATE SECTOR

At the same, time our early efforts to engage the Private Sector in some of these activities promise a rich source of brains, talent, and, in some cases, resources to support our programs. In particular we can anticipate receiving the services of speakers from foundations and corporations, publications for distribution to prime audiences overseas, and possible financial backing for exhibitions and cultural presentations.

CONCLUSION

In sum, Project Truth is off to a fine start thanks to your continuing support and encouragement. I will, of course, keep you closely informed on our progress in coming months. We are confident of the validity of the course we are charting in response to the challenges we face.

Sincerely,



Charles Z. Wick
Director

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